developed countries to take precautions while issuing travel advisories concerning India; and

(c) if so, the response received by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir. The foreign tourist arrivals to India during 2005 reached the level of 3.92 million as against 3.46 million in 2004, registering a growth of 13.2%.

(b) and (c) As and when required, the Department of Tourism takes up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs for apprising foreign missions in India as also the foreign Governments, through the Indian Missions abroad, requesting for not issuing any adverse travel advisories due to sporadic incidents of law & order or terrorism. Indiatourism offices abroad also coordinate with Indian Missions and Travel/Tour operators, to counter any adverse publicity on this account. The response is generally positive.

Maintenance of ancient heritage sites

2361. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint that the maintenance of ancient heritage has not been possible due to financial crisis;

(b) whether it is a fact that ancient monument of Sanchi, Vidisha, Khajuraho etc. are dilapidating during rainy season; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by Government in this regard, particularly for famous Bodh pilgrim Sanchi?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No leakage during rainy season is reported in the group of monuments at Khajuraho. However at Sanchi during the conservation works undertaken at the stupa by Sir John Marshall between 1912-1919, weep holes were provided for draining out the percolated rain water. Seepage through the weep holes is a normal process and is a prerequisite to save the structure from damage.

There is no damage to the Sanchi stupa.